

Sweden

Policy approach

The work of Swedish Development Cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is guided by a result strategy for Sweden's reform cooperation with the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The strategy initially covered period 2014-2020, but it was extended until the end of 2021. (<https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/about-sweden-non-swedish-citizens/bosnia-and-herzegovina/development-and-aid/>). The main goal for Sweden's support is to improve the living conditions for people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a way to achieve this, the main focus is to bring the country closer to the European Union (EU). Sweden supports the country through various partners and types of support such as public institutions, civil society, the private sector and international actors. Our focus remained the same as it was in 2020.

Economic Development: The focus is on economic integration with the EU and development of a market economy. Swedish support covers the spectrum from direct support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to make them competitive, over support for innovation and young entrepreneurs to support influencing policy and creating a business-friendly environment.

Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law: Sweden supports strengthened democracy, increased respect for Human Rights and a more developed Rule of Law with a focus on strengthened public administration and the judiciary, and, increased enjoyment of Human Rights, strengthened rights and strengthened opportunities to exercise democratic influence, including gender equality. The support is broad and combines Swedish profile issues with a balance between support for rights holders and duty bearers. In this way, we strengthen the state's and entities' capacity to guarantee rights. The support focuses on legal reform, gender equality, anti-corruption, the rights of children and people with disabilities. Sweden also supports the implementation of EU regulations on municipality level and local governments.

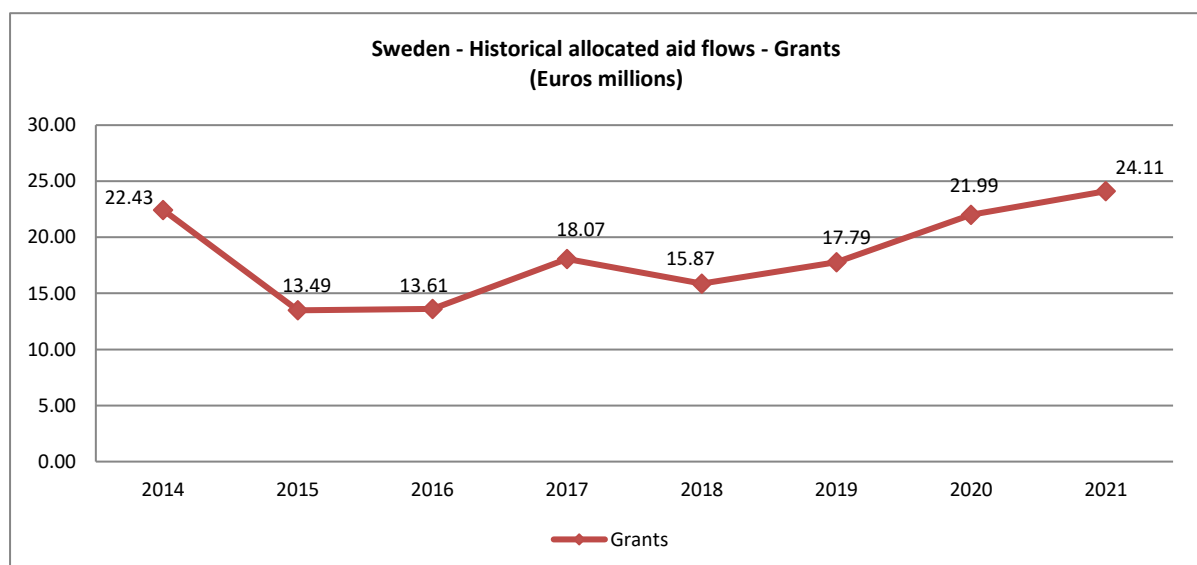
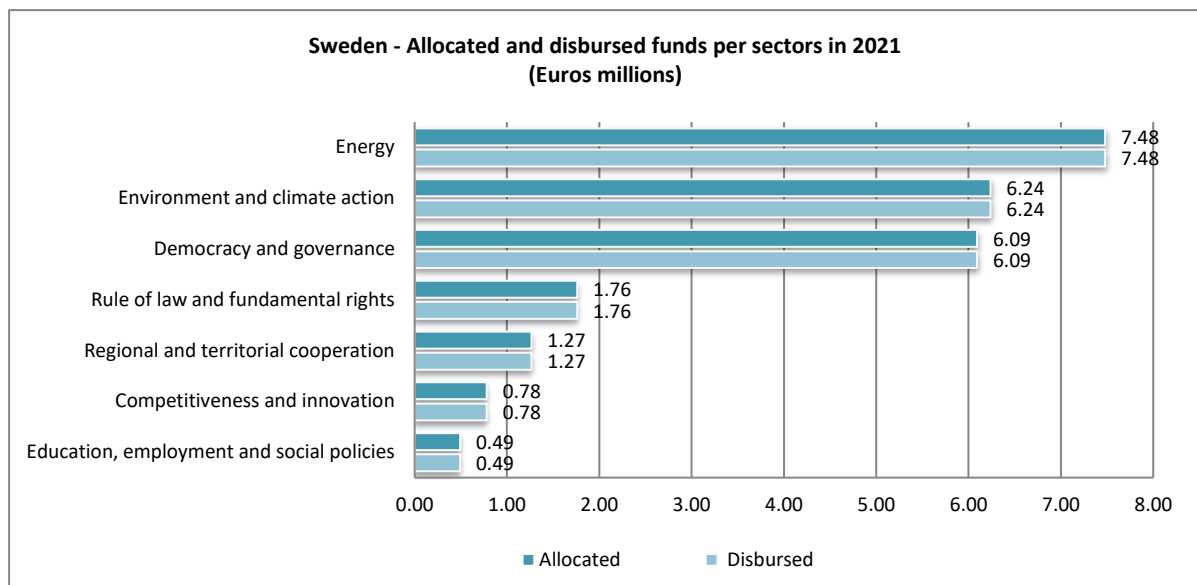
Environment and Climate: The Swedish support includes initiatives to increase Bosnia and Herzegovina's investments in environmental infrastructure and to make them sustainable in the long term, complying with EU directives within the field of environment and climate. Sweden focuses specifically on wastewater treatment, solid waste management, air quality and hazardous waste. We seek to strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina's capacity to receive and implement funding from International Financial Institutions and the European Union.

The pandemic has complicated the implementation of Swedish development cooperation with BiH. Through a close dialogue and a flexible approach, Sweden's partners have found alternative ways of conducting activities. As a result, the size and ambition of Sweden's development cooperation portfolio has been maintained.

Key activities in 2021

The Government of Sweden **allocated € 24.11 and disbursed € 24.11 million in 2021 in the form of grant** to the following sectors: Energy, Environment and climate action, Democracy and governance,

Rule of law and fundamental rights, Regional and territorial cooperation, Competitiveness and innovation and Education, employment and social policies.



Medium and long-term approach

Sweden's perspective is long-term and anchored in European and global norms and values, such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, gender equality and sustainable development (environmentally, socially and economically). We strive for a trusting relationship with a breadth of different partners, where we openly discuss different issues, such as transparency and the fight against corruption. Sweden seeks an inclusive approach and looks for changes that include vulnerable and marginalized groups in the society. We believe that changes are more sustainable if ideas and solutions are defined and driven locally, and we therefore emphasize the importance of local ownership. Sweden also believes it is important to support initiatives over geographic lines and we

strive to support changes in the whole country. New strategy for period 2021-2027 has been adopted at the end of 2021, and Swedish support to Bosnia and Herzegovina will have extended focus. New strategy has four areas: i) Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality, ii) Environment and climate, iii) Economic development, and iv) Peaceful and inclusive societies.

More information about Swedish development cooperation can be found on [Openaid.se](https://openaid.se)

Development partners coordination efforts

Sweden fully supports all initiatives to coordinate development partners interventions and prevent overlapping activities. Sweden participates in most of the development partners coordination initiatives i.e. Local Governance Development Partners Coordination Forum, Anti-corruption Development Partners Coordination Forum, Rule of Law Development Partners Coordination forum, PAR Development Partners Coordination Forum, EU Councilors coordination forum, UN Women International Working Group on Gender Equality (IWGE), and other relevant sector meetings.

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